Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 42 on page 17 of the specification with the following:

[0042] The fusion proteins encoded by the plasmids of the present invention can be isolated by, first culturing *E. coli* cells containing the plasmids in an appropriate bacterial growth medium, typically at 37°C. Expression of the fusion protein is induced by adding an inducer of the tac promoter, such as isopropylthiogalactoside (IPTG). After incubation, the cells are harvested and lysed. The fusion protein is then purified. In cases where the maltose binding protein or a polyhistidine tag comprise the fusion protein, purification is most easily carried out by affinity chromatography according to methods well known in the art. The affinity tags can be removed, such as by digestion with Factor Xa protease, and the resulting fusion protein minus the affinity tags is concentrated. This concentrated fusion protein is then tested for efficacy as an activatable toxin.